

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247016

CAPE TOWN FOR EASUM

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PORG, BY

SUBJECT: BURUNDI AMBASSADOR DEMARCHE REGARDING US SECURITY
COUNCIL VETO

1. BURUNDI AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON, JOSEPH NDABANIWE (WHO IS ALSO HIS COUNTRY'S UN PERMREP), CALLED ON DEPARTMENT COUNTRY OFFICER NOVEMBER 6 TO DELIVER STRONG DEMARCHE CONCERNING USUN OCTOBER 30 SECURITY COUNCIL VETO ON SOUTH AFRICA EXPULSION ISSUE. HE SAID HIS COUNTRY AND AFRICAN STATES IN GENERAL SURPRISED, INSULTED AND DISAPPOINTED AT US VETO WHICH IS VIEWED AS SUPPORT OF SOUTH AFRICAN RACISM. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTION, AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS NOT RPT NOT ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM GRB AND THAT AS FAR AS HE AWARE GRB NOT RPT NOT PLANNING PROTEST TO EMBASSY.

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2. AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT OF THREE PARTIES (US, FRANCE AND UK) WHICH VETOED EXPULSION MEASURE, US KNOWN TO BE IN FOREFRONT OF VETO MOVEMENT AND SAID THAT FRENCH DELEGATION AT UN HAD INFORMED THE AFRICANS AND NDABANIWE PERSONALLY THAT THEY HAD INTENDED TO ABSTAIN ON VOTE BUT QUOTE STRONG AND THREATENING LETTER FROM US SECSTATE KISSINGER TO FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAD FORCED GOF TO INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATION TO ALTER ITS POSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH USG WISHES END QUOTE. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT US HAD LOST ALL CREDIBILITY WITH AFRICANS AT UN

AND THAT IT WOULD HENCEFORTH BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO GARNER AFRICAN SUPPORT ON OTHER NON-RELATED ISSUES WHICH WE CONSIDER CRITICAL. (HE LATER ALLUDED TO PLO QUESTION AS ONE SUCH ISSUE.)

3. COUNTRY OFFICER RESPONDED WITH REVIEW OF US POSITION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES INCLUDING USG DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS, USG SUPPORT OF SANCTIONS AND REVIEW GENERAL TENOR OF POINTS RAISED IN SEGEL AND SCALI UN SPEECHES. ALSO CALLED NDABANIWE'S ATTENTION TO CURRENT TRIP OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM WHICH REINFORCES USG INTEREST IN DECOLONIZATION AND PEACEFUL CHANGE IN THAT AREA OF WORLD. COUNTRY OFFICER ASKED AMBASSADOR FLATLY WHAT HE THOUGHT WOULD BE GAINED FROM EXPULSION OF SAG FROM UN AND IF HE REALLY BELIEVED SUCH A MEASURE WOULD DO ANYTHING TO ENHANCE POSITION OF BLACKS LIVING UNDER SA REGIME. ARGUMENT WAS MADE TO AMBASSADOR THAT EXPULSION WOULD ONLY SERVE TO EXACERBATE ISSUE BY REMOVING SAG FROM CONTACTS WITH WORLD COMMUNITY AND RESULTING ISOLATION COULD WELL LEAD TO WORSENING CONDITIONS FOR THAT COUNTRY'S BLACK POPULATION. AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD THAT USG NOT IDLE REGARDING SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THAT SAG NOW REALIZES IT MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHAT MAY BE FINAL REPRIEVE TO MAKE CHANGES IN ITS DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT. NDABANIWE WAS ALSO TOLD IT IS EXPECTED THAT USG WILL BE WORKING BEHIND SCENES TO DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE CHANGES IN SAG POLICY TOWARDS BLACKS. COUNTRY OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT IT UNLIKELY CHANGES WOULD COME ABOUT OVER NIGHT, BUT THAT IT IS US HOPE THAT GRADUAL

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IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS FOR BLACKS WILL OBTAIN.

4. AMBASSADOR RELUCTANTLY AGREED THAT EXPULSION WOULD PROBABLY DO NOTHING TO HELP SA BLACKS BUT SAID IT WAS ONLY REMAINING ALTERNATIVE SINCE INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS OVER LAST TWENTY-SIX YEARS HAD BEEN TO NO AVAIL. HE ALSO SAID THAT US APPARENTLY USING DOUBLE STANDARD SINCE IT WILLING TO EXERT PRESSURE ONLY AGAINST SPECIFIC COUNTRIES WHEN

QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INVOLVED. IN RELATION TO THIS, NDABANIWE ADDED THAT HE HAD NO QUARREL WITH US POLICY TOWARDS HIS OWN COUNTRY SINCE HE BELIEVED THAT QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTUALLY INVOLVED. HE DESCRIBED SOUTH AFRICA AS MORE SERIOUS CASE, HOWEVER, SINCE DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST BLACKS IS ENCODED AS LAW OF THE LAND. HE MADE PASSING REFERENCE TO RECENT PRESS ARTICLES WHICH ATTEMPT SHOW US AFRICAN POLICY TILTING IN FAVOR SAG. IN RESPONSE TO COUNTRY OFFICER'S COMMENTS (PARA 3 ABOVE) AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION (US-

ISRAELI RELATIONS) WAS ANY INDICATION OF US "WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES," IT USUALLY CAME TO PASS THAT MAJOR POWER IS DICTATED TO BY THE MINOR POWER. MAW

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